The Lemon Grove FVIEW

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Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, May 7, 1996 25¢

My Mother

by Tora Clark

They are 86 years old today, my mother's hands. Spotted with age and rather frail-looking, they frequently are at rest on the arms of her rocking chair or lying quietly at her side as she naps on the living room couch.

I am sitting with her now, holding her hands. We are talking. She notices her hands and comments on their dark veins and deep wrinkles. She says they are shriveled and ugly. I look at them, and sweet memories, like the fragrance or orange blossoms on a soft summer breeze, begin to drift through my mind.

I am 6 years old, standing on a chair at the kitchen sink, looking into the mirror Mom has propped up on the drainboard. She is shampooing my hair. She has stopped scrubbing long enough to fashion a foamy hairdo of large, lathery curls, and I have become Princess Lora. Suddenly, she transforms me into MONSTER Lora with sudsy, spiky horns sticking out all over my head. We are laughing together.

I am 17 years old, a senior in high school. It is late at night and I am lying in bed, listening to the hum of the sewing machine. Mom is the manager of a school cafeteria and she has worked all day, making special dishes for the kids. Now she's at her sewing machine, making something special for me. It is my third and final year as a member of the flag corps and each year I have needed a complete new uniform. Her hands have worked with corduroys, satins,

crepes and cottons, fashioning vests, blouses with puffed sleeves, full skirts, pleated skirts and satin-lined capes. Tonight she is finishing the uniform I will wear this year. I smile as I think of myself marching at the football games that lie ahead, proudly wearing the snappy uniform created by my mom's hands.

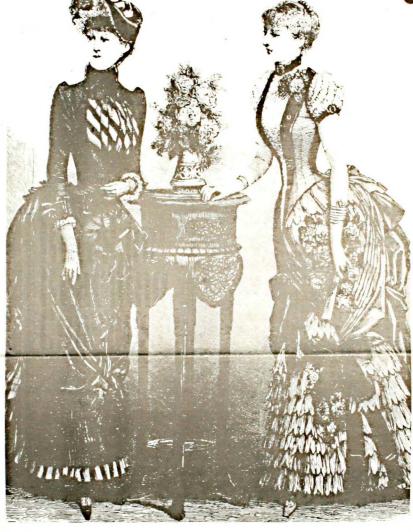
I am 20 years old. She has just driven the family car more than a hundred miles to get me and we are headed back home. Yesterday, a young man I am dating invited me to go with him on a two-day trip. I told him that I would want to have my own room but could not afford it. He assured me that I would have my own room and that he would pay for it, so we had driven for a few hours and had stopped at a motel just before nightfall. I had spent most of the night fending off his advances — in OUR room — until he finally gave up and went to sleep. I had gotten up early in the morning to call Mom and now, here she is, her hands resting steady and sure on the steering wheel, taking me back to the safety and comfort of my apartment.

I am 25 years old, living 250 miles away from home, working my way through college. I have just returned from a full day of classes and am walking through my three-room rental. I feel amazed and delighted with the changes Mom has made during my absence. She arrived two days ago, bringing her sewing machine with her, and has transformed the bare rooms into a place of beauty. Curtains made from a large floral print of orange, yellow, green and brown tones now decorate the kitchen windows. A matching cloth is draped over the table beneath them. In the bedroom/living room, pillow covers and matching curtains made of a bold, swirly black-and-white print add the perfect finishing touch to my dramatic black, white and red room. Once again, her hands have added beauty to my life.

Many years have passed and though her hands now tremble when she holds a cup of coffee, she is able to steady them long enough to write a few loving words on a special card she has selected just for me. I am recalling the countless times during the recent months when I have opened the refrigerator door and have found one of my favorite salads — prepared just for me — nestled between the loaf of wheat bread and the various jars that hold leftovers from previous meals.

The fragrant breeze of memories passes and I am back in the present moment. With a full heart I lean close to her and say, "I love you, Mom!"

She responds with a smile - and a gentle squeeze of her beautiful hands.



by Susanne Riddle-Haslinger

For the semi-aging baby-boomers, those who are rapidly approaching the end of the "forty-anything" decade, many physical and emotional developments occur that oftentimes include denial and resistance.

For instance, it is not uncommon for someone with perfect vision at age 39 to find themselves squinting their eyes to read soupcan labels at age 40. Though males have their share of middle-age crisis, it seems the female population is especially subject to startling discoveries during this time period, most of them not comforting.

One such reality is the day some of us glance in the mirror and see not ourselves, but our mothers staring back at us. Squeezing the eyes tightly and shaking our heads with disbelief, we chance a sneak peek, hoping the image was a hallucination.

The shock of seeing one's own mother in the mirror has nothing to do with beauty or the lack of it, but has everything to do with the realization that one is growing older. It has everything to do with seeing your own face, as you saw your mother's, from the eyes of a child, teenager or young adult.

When this scary apparition of "Oh. My God, Mom, Is That You In My Mirror" syndrome happens the first time, it equals an 8.9 on the Richter scale but, keep the faith, it gets better.

Following a series of aftershocks (and therapy), the next step is to get rid of your analyst, look beyond the mirror and into the

heart of the matter. Take a deep breath, see your mother and take a journey into the past and remember.

The present image of your mother is now fading (along with the laugh lines and crow's feet) and your inner-child is appearing. The memory of coming home from school on a cold and rainy day to the tantalizing aroma of spaghetti sauce that has been simmering on the stove for hours, suddenly seems very real. Wait, it is a hot summer day and your mom is filling your pool with cool water and spraying you with the hose and you are both giggling. Next there are tears, because you fell from your bicycle and mom is the only one you will allow to treat your wound. You hear a noise and cry out, thinking a monster is under your bed and mom runs in to offer soothing words of comfort.

The memories move on and times with mom are not always calm. As you grow older and want more independence, rules are broken. Punishment often means being grounded (to a room without television, CD players and video games). Disagreements over clothes (too short), hairstyles (too high) and boyfriends (too everything), may bring on heated arguments, but later. (years and years later), it seems mom really did know best. Remember shopping for that special prom dress that may have cost a small fortune and sacrifice (not yours) or invading your mom's house with friends that must have seemed as aften to her then as your kid's friends seem to you now? Remember her telling you with a strange laugh that she hoped you had kids just like you someday?

The memories of childhood and early youth begin to disappear and are being replaced with visions of adult life. A smile appears as you remember the early stages of marriage and mom offers more words of wisdom, and promises that your newlywed husband will one day learn to close the toilet seat. It's mom, who along with being blessed with precious grandchildren, devotes many hours of babysitting (at no cost to you) and loves every minute of it.

Maybe it was mom who shared excitement over the purchase of a new house or praise over losing some weight. Maybe it was mom, who knew from personal experience, the grief and loss you felt upon becoming a young widow. Perhaps it was mom, who looked into the face of her child and offered soothing words of comfort and hope for a new tomorrow.

The ghosts in the mirror have disappeared and the image looking back no longer feels shock or concern over something as minor as growing older. Instead, the face seems new, aware, refreshed and alive.

To those of us who have looked into the mirror, let us be glad of heart, for if we see just a little of our mothers in ourselves, we are truly blessed and should be thankful. Happy Mother's Day, "Mom," and to moms everywhere ... and to those spirits who are now memories in our hearts, you are remembered.

Personal comments from Mayor Bob Burns

Six-letter word

With the four-letter words becoming common in many walks of life, it seems that an even greater outrage is upon us today. A new word has taken over in causing divisive if not really antagonistic dialogue among our citizens. It is the six-letter word: growth. The most vehement discourses have to do, primarily. with our schools. With increases in population, there is the spectra of hordes of children being thrust into a school system that is mandated to accommodate them and give them a proper education.

The ADA designation in the schools, does not have to do with handicapped persons, but rather it is a figure that indicates the average daily attendance. For each child, the district is subsidized a dollar amount by the state, which accounts for a goodly portion of the budget. It has been said that the reluctance to severely scrutinize the legality of a child's residence in the country, is understandable with this stipend and the need for money by the districts.

The whole problem of immigration, and the jumble of laws and interpretations of same, has both helped some districts and embarrassed others. The fact is that the schools in California are in dire need of money to properly educate our children and to keep the facilities in a safe state of repair.

In our present economic times, there is considerable resistance to raising taxes, period. Many folks have their children raised and gone. Some of these have absolved their consciences of responsibility for providing educational opportunities to coming generations and just vote "NO" on all school needs as well as everything else.

There are some who rationalize a negative vote with the argument that the schools are doing poorly in the job of teaching. "Let them do a better job, and then I will vote them more money," they might say. And, of course, there are those who are so strapped financially that even a few dollars cannot be provided for such a worthy cause

The hue and cry is often, "stop the growth, and the schools will then not be impacted." While sounding logical, it is just impossible to "stop growth" legally, and it will be (is) happening whether we like it or not. In Lemon Grove, while our general plan update is in heated debate, the Navy is presently building housing that will bring children to our district.

Our governing board, and the staff of the Lemon Grove School District will have to accommodate them when they come. Also the population predictions for the next 20 years, assure us of many more families that will need homes, and schools. This is not a Kevin Costner film that says "build, and they will come," it is a fact that they are coming, so we must prepare for them. The magnetism of Southern California is, and will continue to be, bringing people here no matter what.

Understanding the problems that our school districts have with the voters is one thing, but the need for financing is ultimate and must be addressed. It is regional responsibility, and that means every adult that exists within that sphere of influence. The cities, the county, and the districts are equally challenged to solve the problems, with the final decision being made by the residents and voters. Assessment districts, user fees and any other schemes that are produced to somehow circumvent the voters are not the

They increase distrust, and give credence to the No Voters arguments. There has to be an honest, and compassionate view of our crumbling educational system. There has to be a sharing of the financial responsibility by everyone. We all benefit in so many ways, when our youth are properly educated and when they become responsible citizens. Therefore we all must pay the tab, whatever it is.

Community Notes

Grossmont faculty concert set

The Grossmont College Dance Department will present its Faculty Dance Concert at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, at Theatre East, 210 E. Main St. in El Cajon.

The concert will showcase a variety of dance genres, including modern, jazz, musical theatre and ballet. Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$7 for students, children, seniors and military. For tickets and information call 465-1700, ext. 408, or the theater box office at 440-2277.

Firefighters sponsor blood drive

KNSD-TV Channel 7/39 and the San Diego Blood bank invite the public to give blood when the "KNSD Bloodmobile" sets up for a blood drive sponsored by the Lemon Grove Firefighters during Lemon Grove Old Time Days, noon - 4 p.m. Saturday, in the Lemon Grove Community Center, 3146 School Lane.

All donors at this drive will be awarded a specially designed San Diego Blood Bank T-shirt. Each donor will also receive a medical history review and mini-physical which includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron level checks.

The process of donating blood takes only about one hour. Anyone in good health between the ages of 17 and 69 may be eligible to give blood if they weigh at least 110 pounds. A good meal is recommended prior to donation. For more information on any blood drive, call the San Diego Blood Bank at 296-6393.

Walk for human relations set

Heartland Human Relations and Fair Housing Association is sponsoring a walk-a-thon beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Lake Murray. Registration will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Kiowa Street entrance. The walk will run from mile marker 0 around the lake. There will be prizes donated by local merchants for the participants.

All proceeds will go to Heartland Human Relations, a non-profit organization which provides a variety of services to the community. Heartland conducts diversity workshops and supports high school human relations clubs in East County

Conflict resolution programs are also given by Heartland as well as tenant-landlord counseling and mediation services. Heartland helps people help themselves through self-sufficiency programs for families and individuals as well as emergency services for low income people in need of immediate care.

Teague Insurance Agency is sponsoring the walk-a-thon for the second year. Teague has served the insurance needs of San Diegans for 42 years and supports Heartland and its service to the community

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The Lemon Grove Review

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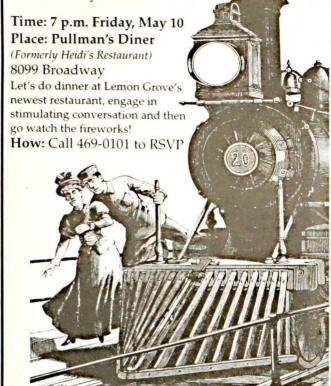
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corder of San Dego County, California, executed by CANILLE YOUSSEF SA-LAHEDINE, and MAY HAMDDEH SA-LAHEDINE, husband and wife as port territorial to the control of the county of the co to occupy and use so much of the surface of said land as may be required therefor, upon compliance with the conditions and subject to the provisions, and limitation of Chapter 5, Part I. Division 6 of the Public Resources Code, as reserved by the State of California in Patient recorded March 12, 1953 as. Document No. 33482 in Book 2532, Page 253 of Official Records. Also excepting from the above membraned land, all uranium, thorum and or other materials which is or may be determined to be particularly resistent at the production of fissionable mismatile, the productions of the Act of August 1, 1946 (80 Stat 755). Associated easiements as more fully described in the Deed of Trust as Parcels 2, 2A, 2B, 3C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3 (Tructs 1 and 2), 4.5 and 6. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the mail property described above is purported to be Vacant Land E (agon directions may be obtained by written request submitted to the Beneficiary

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County to go multimedia with computerized kiosks

by Dave Schwab

Before long, East County residents will be able to acquire building permits and access other government services, pay bills, make dinner reservations or order sports tickets via county multimedia kiosks set up in strategic public-gathering areas.

County supervisors have given the go-ahead to enter negotiations with and award a contract to NCR and Maxwell Laboratories, Inc., for the development and implementation of a network of public access information and transactional computer kiosks. Kiosks would provide the public access to all types of computerized recreational and tourist information (hotels, restaurants, local attractions, maps, etc.), and government services (payment of fines and fees, park and campsite reservations), as well as purchase of tickets to sporting and cultural

"We're trying to make local government more accessible to the public," said Jon Fullinwider, director of county Information

wherewithal to make government services available at a very competitive rate.

"Why should people have to jump in their car and drive to one of four regional centers to obtain county services, if they can go to a library, local school or use their pc at home and get the same information? We're looking at putting out a large number of kiosks, making them almost as prevalent as ATM machines "

Other services like birth certificates, fictitious name filings, paying for traffic citations or getting court calendar information, would also eventually be available on county kiosks, added Fullinwider.

We see this as a way to en-

hance government services while reducing the cost of providing that service, making government more accessible to the public public government without boundaries," said Fullinwider

Rachel Sandmann, manager of the Internet technology group of the S-Cubed division of Maxwell Laboratories, Inc., said San Diego will be a model for the new kiosk technology.

"This is a test case for us." Sandmann said. "What we're doing here is bringing together many different sources of information on one single kiosk. Many places have tried single-function kiosks, which, notoriously, have become broken down and nobody uses them because they're only good for one thing

"We've put a lot of useful things on one kiosk to create a user-base that will support the upkeep of the kiosk, and make it an integral part of the community."

Sandmann said county kiosks will also be able to tie into the Internet, connecting public users with the county's website address.

NCR and Maxwell Laboratories will now do a study detailing "We have the technological, how the kiosk system will be paid for, implemented and marketed.

County staff is to return to the Board of Supervisors in 90 days with a progress report on planning for the county kiosk system.

Sandmann said it could take as little as a year to deploy the kiosk system, once board approval for plans is given.

The county multimedia kiosk system will be cutting-edge. promised Sandmann.

"We think this is going to be a real showcase for San Diego." she said. "It's a really fascinating and attention-getting project that people will be getting a look at nationwide.

"It's a public sector-private sector partnership that's a win for all," concluded Fullinwider.

Supervisors balk at habitat ballot measure

by Dave Schwab

Consideration of a proposal to put an initiative on the November ballot asking voters to approve continued planning on costly multiple habitat, species and open space conservation programs countywide has been postponed by county supervisors until July.

The ballot proposal was advanced by 5th District Supervisor Bill Horn The board voted 4-1 to direct staff to conduct a report on the costs and impacts associated with the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), before returning with the proposal July

The MSCP is a visionary plan on a grand scale to protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species by creating an interconnecting network of protected habitat and open space linked by corridors allowing wildlife free movement. The objective is to try and create enough habitat to keep additional plant and animal species from being listed as threatened or endangered.

Three such regional habitat conservation plans being done countywide would require the acquisition of a great deal of private

Horn proposed the ballot measure to seek voters' blessing on tax funding for private-land ac-

'We've spent about \$12 million in planning over the last five years and it's time to go to the electorate to ask them if they're willing to foot the bill for this," said Horn. "This (land acquisition) is going to cost \$1 billion on the low end, maybe up to \$5 billion. I'm not afraid to have the electorate vote. I think we do a disservice to the public keeping this item away from them for a

One major stumbling block to enaction of the MSCP is that acquiring the necessary private lands would remove them from the property- tax rolls.

"Even if the land were free and put in preserve, the county would still lose \$50 million a year in tax base," commented Horn, "That's a tremendous amount to lose.

According to government estimates, San Diego County's already lost about \$10.5 billion in lower property-tax assessment due to the recession over the last five years, resulting in \$10.5 million in lost property-tax revenues to the region.

Bob Asher, resource planning chief for the county Department of Planning and Land Use, said planning in East County for habitat protection is still very much in the formative stages.

Putting together a habitat conservation plan in East County is more complex than elsewhere in the county. Asher added, because East County has a great deal more land tied up in public ownership state and federal. The passage of the Forest Conservation Initiative in rural East County has also greatly decreased allowable zoning density on much developable private land.

"The East County plan could have a different character than more urban areas," added Asher.

Due to its wide variety of ecosystems - coastal, mountains, desert - San Diego County has a more varied number of plant and animal species than any other region in the continental United States other than Hawaii, Asher

Whatever habitat is eventually conserved depends on funding. pointed out Asher, adding that legal questions are also involved.

"There are certain people that feel that this kind of regulation is overburdensome, and that there may be constitutional issues involved - the government ought to be buying the land that is regulated," Asher said. "Federal and state governments have said they'll come up with their share of the money. They've asked the local region to also figure out a way to contribute local monies to help compensate property owners. A lot of people believe that the total burden from this shouldn't be placed on just landowners that everybody should share in the cost.

Putting habitat conservation on the ballot at some point becomes mandatory, concluded Horn.

"If you're looking at who's going to pay for this, it has to eventually be brought to the voters." he said. "I'm just saying, do it now before we spend millions more on planning."

County transit makes gains in East County ridership

The San Diego County Transit System (CTS) had record breaking ridership totals last month on their 18 suburban bus routes which operate in Lemon Grove, El Cajon, La Mesa. Santee, Lakeside and La Mesa.

Due to the increased ridership, CTS recently improved its disabled services for passengers in wheelchairs by installing a second wheelchair securement position in each of its 46 buses. The entire fleet now complies with the current Americans with Disabilities Act, according to CTS's suburban project manager, Jerry Kehoe.

Kehoe said that during March. CTS' ridership grew to 288,717 passengers and surpassed a previous record set in Oct. 1995 for 284,868 passengers.

He attributed the ridership growth to CTS' responsiveness to passenger service demand, the addition of four new Santee routes last August, increased frequency of bus arrivals and departures on many routes and the introduction of larger, more comfortable

The top performing route in March was Route 873. It posted a 24.6 percent increase (13,286 to 16, 555) in passengers from the same period last year. Route 873 serves the El Cajon Transit Center at Main Street and Marshall Avenue, Madison Avenue, Kennedy Recreation Center, Granite Hills High School and Foothills Adult Continuation School.

Route 875 reported a 20 percent gain (5,441 to 6,527) in passengers from the same period last year. Route 875 serves Broadway Lemon Grove Depot Trolley Station, Massachusetts Avenue Trolley Station and Lemon Grove's Central Business District

Route 864 showed a 14.3 percent rise (26,420 to 30,194) in passengers from the same period last year. Route 864 operates between Alpine and the El Cajon Transit Center at Main and Marshall. In response to passenger demand, this route will increase its bus runs during afternoon peak hours beginning in Oct. 1996.

For CTS suburban bus route information, timetables, map and tickets or a free introductory round trip, call Ridelink at 237-

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Grossmont Hospital Foundation awards \$129K to hospital services

In response to welcomed financial support from the community, Grossmont Hospital Foundation recently approved \$129,110 for several patient care and community outreach programs in departments throughout Grossmont Hospital.

Money for the requests came from the foundation's Projects & Allocations Committee, which twice each year divides contributions received from individuals. businesses and organizations among various departments throughout the hospital.

When donations are not restricted to a specific purpose when the gifts are made, the foundation is able to use them where the need is greatest.

A new video bronchoscopy system is the most sophisticated piece of equipment funded with this round of P&A funds. The

high-tech device raises care for pulmonary and endoscopy patients to a state-of-the-art level, replacing an outdated system based on fiber optic technology.

Video bronchoscopy enables physicians and nurses to actually see conditions inside the body cavity and capture a permanent record of them on film. Clinicians can also monitor, as they occur, the progress of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Other departments receiving funding include behavioral health, cardiac rehabilitation, clinical case management, diabetes care. neonatal intensive care, nutritional services, pharmacy, recreational therapy, transitional care. women's center and urology.

Since its inception in 1994, the Projects and Allocations Committee has provided \$558,590 to the

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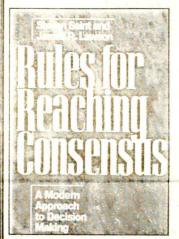
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